



Creeks, Drainage, and Wastewater Advisory Committee (CDWAC)

July 18, 2018 Meeting Notes

Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue

Room 4901

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Committee Members	Present?	SPU Staff & Guests	Role
Ben Billick	Y	Sheryl Shapiro	CAC Program Manager
Colum Lang	Y	Natasha Walker	CAC Program Coordinator
Gary Olson	Y	Madeline Goddard	Drainage & Wastewater Deputy Director
Mariela White	Y	Judi Gladstone	Division Director, Strategy and Governmental Affairs, DWW
Michael Williams	N	Julie Vorhes	Separate Charges Project Manager
Maria McDaniel	N	Francine Johnson	Separate Charges Project Analyst
Thy Pham	N	Katie McVicker	SPU Communications Staff
Andrew Schiffer	N	Guests	
Lisa Mikesell	Y	Christina Ciampa	Guest
		Nico Onoda-McGuire	Guest
		Sonia Rosales	Guest, SPU SYEP Intern

1. Regular Business

- Colum opened the meeting at 5:38 PM and reminded everyone to sign-in.
- DWW Deputy Director, Madeline Goddard, announced that her last day with SPU would be this week, and expressed her gratitude for the insights shared by the Committee during her tenure.
- Meeting notes from June were reviewed and approved.
- Sheryl indicated emergency exits and exit procedures.

2. CAC Program Updates

- **Upcoming meeting schedule**
 - **August:** Nearly all members were interested in joining the RainWise installation tour. Stay tuned for transportation coordination, final meeting location, and refreshments.
 - **September:** Rescheduling due to observance of Yom Kippur.
 - **November:** Likely rescheduling due to the meeting falling the day before Thanksgiving. Options include extending the October meeting, or replacing the meeting with an All-CAC meeting earlier in the month.
- **Membership update**
 - Lisa Mikesell was welcomed as a new member in June.
 - Tristan, who applied and was approved, took a job in Tacoma and is moving there.
 - Alum, Christina Ciampa, is hoping to join for the August meeting.

3. Separate Charges for DWW Service

Julie Vorhes, Separate Charges Project Manager, introduced Seattle Public Utilities' separate charges project, which includes pricing assessments for water tap installations, water connection fees, final water meter reads, water main extensions, and other water-related services. Vorhes focused on the only DWW fee being adjusted: core-taps, which includes coring a hole in a sewer or drainage pipe for a new service connection. Vorhes provided an overview of the project, explaining the methodology and emphasizing the complexity of re-examining the charges with new guiding principles while ensuring, through data, that the new fees recover actual costs. Vorhes described the three-month timeline for establishing the new charges, and the public input process planned to gather input on those charges. Vorhes was joined by **Francine Johnson**, Separate Charges Project Analyst, and **Katie McVicker**, Sr. Public Relations Specialist and project liaison.

Background information: The Seattle City Council directed SPU to update specific separate charges in 2018 because the current charges do not reflect the actual costs for SPU to provide these services. To update separate charges, SPU will need to adopt a director's rule.

Johnson handed out the draft outreach documents, including a FAQ covering all separate charges and a single-page handout that describes the DWW core-tap charge in more detail, along with proposed charge adjustments. Committee members were asked to provide input on SPU's outreach materials and outreach strategy:

- **A CAC Member** asked if an annual charge for inflation would be incorporated into the fee(s). Staff responded that it would not during this first update, but that they hope to get into an annual cycle where they can re-evaluate the fee more regularly.
- **A CAC Member** asked who the typical customer is that will be impacted by these changes. Staff responded that it would mostly impact re-redevelopment or remodels, noting it would be unusual for a residential homeowner to require a core-tap. Staff confirmed that a homeowner would not be charged for a new core tap if SPU replaced a main.
- **A CAC Member** asked about fees related to side sewers. Staff noted that side sewer charges are typically handled through Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections, and that they are not adding any separate charges at this point.
- **A CAC Member** asked if the fees account for contractor delays. Staff said they did have stand-by charges.
- **A CAC Member** expressed concern about growth, and whether the fees account for an overall impact increase of use of the system. Staff said that would be more along the lines of System Development Charges. SPU has a team working on a draft System Development Charges proposal, but the team is still in the early planning phase.

4. SPU Race and Social Justice (RSJ)/Service Equity

CDWAC members watched the Seattle Public Utilities 2017 Race and Social Justice Report to Seattle City Council on 4/24/18. The video can be viewed here: <http://seattlechannel.org/mayor-and-council/city-council/2018/2019-civil-rights-utilities-economic-development-and-arts-committee?videoid=x91004>

In the video, SPU leadership, management, RSJI Change Team Co-Chairs and Branch Equity Team members from 3 lines of business shared updates on various Race and Social Justice Initiatives. They noted that the Seattle Office of Civil Rights also has a liaison to the work at SPU. Highlights included:

- ✓ Developing a strategic relationship between the RSJ Change Team and the SPU Executive Team.
 - ✓ Applying the Racial Equity Toolkit (RET) to the 1996 Graffiti ordinance.
 - ✓ WMBE (Women Minority Business Enterprises) wins and challenges, including the importance of prompt payment. This was an example of SPU monitoring their own internal performance to evaluate impacts to WMBE businesses.
 - ✓ EJSE Community Partnership Program, reviewing the results of the 2016-2017 pilot project and discussing the goals for the program in 2018.
 - ✓ Implementation of the Branch Equity Team model, along with anecdotes from three members.
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- **A CAC Member** inquired about the ways the City confirms and/or verifies WMBE organizations. **Staff will get back with an answer on that.**
 - **A CAC Member** asked how the WMBE business goals compared the WMBE equivalents at large; in other words, how much of the sector do WMBE businesses make up? Some business sectors may have higher or lower percentages (example: communications versus engineering). Staff also added that the City's contracting team works to help support WMBE businesses who have not received work. CAC responded that understanding the WMBE makeup of a given sector is important. Staff responded that it is also important to ensure all WMBE businesses have access to the information to join the roster, and that barriers to that process are addressed.
 - **A CAC member** noted that the presentation to City Council did not include specific discussion on recruiting efforts for a more representative SPU workforce. Staff responded that it is a huge topic across City departments. A CAC member asked about current diversity at SPU; **staff said they would need to get back to them with those numbers.**
 - **A CAC member** asked about RSJI initiatives in other City departments. Staff explained that the RSJI is City-wide, beginning in 2004, but that how it is structured and/or implemented varies across other departments. Every Department does have a Change Team. **Staff will send out the City-wide initiative links and links to other department reports.**
 - **A CAC member** noted that in both the "Why Equity?" video, and the presentation to City Council, SPU mentioned projects where affluent communities have made more demands and been more engaged than less affluent communities. They wanted to know how in light of this realization, SPU has changed their approach, or is changing their approach. Staff discussed the use of the Equity Toolkit, which walks project managers through equity considerations before beginning a project. **Staff will share an example of a blank and completed Equity Toolkit.** Demographic maps are also used to help identify community characteristics (such as language, income) and the possible impacts of a given project. Staff also shared more about SPU's Community Partnerships program, which aims to make a difference in how SPU programs and services are relevant and meet the needs of people of color, people with low income, immigrant and refugee customers. Working with consulting partner organizations helps in the design and implementation of the more culturally relevant engagement and communications methods and

better outcomes. Sheryl noted that the predecessor to this Program was the Environmental Justice Network in Action program, which she was a part of.

5. King County Equity Maps

CDWAC Co-Chair, Colum Lang presented a series of maps put together by King County's Equity and Social Justice group. Lang focused on the Equity Index, a layer in the map. Lang noted that he thought it was interesting how rapidly the demographics have changed, between just 2010 and 2016. The King County Census Viewer overlays census data and can be viewed here:

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/equity-social-justice/tools-resources/maps.aspx>

Sheryl Shapiro added that during a previous All-CAC meeting on Equity, the Committees discussed the City's Comprehensive Plan, noting that it was the first time the racial and social equity analysis was incorporated into the plan. Sheryl said she will send a link to that Plan, as well as a link to another SPU-generated video discussing inequitable Claims processes. The latter is a good example of how the Utility is applying the RSJ lens to our work.

Sheryl Shapiro asked members to consider what questions CAC members should keep top-of-mind when examining SPU projects and programs. The goal of this exercise would be to help members develop this lens and keep these questions at the forefront in the future as the Committee does their work. CDWAC members did not have time to discuss this, so time will be allotted at a future meeting.

6. Community Insights, Around the Table

- **A CAC Member** shared that the Thornton Creek Alliance will be meeting on July 19 at Maple Leaf Lutheran Church. There are two speakers: one will discuss dredging at Meadowbrook Pond, a stormwater detention facility. The other speaker will discuss the Northgate pedestrian bridge, which is tied in with the light rail extension, which the Alliance feels this will impact the wetlands in Thornton Creek.
- **A CAC Member** shared about their experience attending Highland Park Action Committee meetings. They felt it was interesting that at the meeting, the Racial Equity Toolkit was brought up. The Committee asked if SDOT had used the Toolkit in their project.
- **A CAC Member** shared that they may be attending the seminar held at Seattle University on Sunday, July 22. CEJS, Sustainable Business Consulting, and the Duwamish Alive Coalition are organizing an Environmental Justice and Sustainability workshop as part of the "Innovation for Sustainability" conference, titled: A Watershed for All: Integrating Inclusion, Collaboration and Equity in One of the Most Complex, Diverse Watersheds in America. Sheryl is going to try to register a Committee member tomorrow.
- **A CAC Member** shared about their experience at the "Port Unplugged." event, noting that it was an interesting look at their environmental practices, and that they felt these events should be much more well-advertised. For more information, visit:
<https://www.seattlechamber.com/home/membership/member-news/detail/port-unplugged>

Adjourned 7:39 PM